ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

ENON BAPTIST CHURCH

Wilcox Co., Alabama.

Friday September 24, 1875.

MEMPHIS TENN.
SOUTHERN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY PRINT. 361 MAIN ST.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY, MEMPHIS, TENN.

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MINUTES.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24th, 1875.

The Fifty-fifth anniversary of the Bethel Baptist Association covened with Enon Baptist Church, on Friday, September 24, 1875, in Wilcox county, Alabama.

The Introcutory Sermon was preached by Elder H. Adams, from Romans 12th capter, 10th verse.

After an hours recess, the messengers of the churches reassembled in the house of worship,and were called to order by the Moderator, Elder L. L. Fox.

The business was opened by singing an appropriate hymn; and prayer was offered by Elder J. G. McCaskey.

By request of the Moderator, brethren P. E. Kirven, H. Adams and Jno. W. Henson, read the letters from the churches, and the names of the messengers were enrolled.

FIRST DISTRICT.

Ulconush—M. N. Harris, S. Webb.

New Prospect—T. P. Hase, H. Fendley.

West Bend—John W. Henson, J. R. Cowan,W. J. Thornton.

Bassetts Creek—Eld. J. H. Fendley,R. T. Wilson,W. Leflore.

Amity—

Stave Creek—R. J. W. DeWitt, R. K. Hoven, W. N. Molton, A. Gates.

Salem—R. P. Benson, Thomas Bradford.

Penûl—T. B. Bolem, W. T. Day.

Grove Hill—James Thompkins.

Mount Gillead—Elder J. G. McCaskey, J. B. Nixson, A. G. Coleman.

Horet—J. H. Creighton, T. A. Creighton.

Satilfa—J. C. Hase, Henry Hase.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Elam—Elder M. F. Whatley.

Enon—Elders H. Adams and Jas. Averitt, with brother W. M. Evans.

New Hope—John Pettis, Elisha Bettis, Wiley Davis.

Lower Peach Tree—H. C. Garrett, J. R. Nettles.

Cane Creek W, A. Creswell.

Pisgah—T. D. Norwood, J. M. DeWitt.

Shiloh—T. H. Dunning.

Goose Creek—

Rockey Mount—Elder W. H. DeWitt, H. R. Jones, Winston Bradford.

Nanafalia—Jacob Williams, James Pritchet.

Forrest Springs—Elder P. E. Kirven.

Canaan—Elder L. T. Daniel.

Friendship—J. E. Smiley, W. A. Bridges, J. Jackson.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Spring Hill—Lu. Lipscomb, John Kelley.

Hills—D. B. Jackson.

Aimwell—Robert Mayton.

Bethlehem—G. W. Barkly, C. L. Hadarvay.

Bethel—Elder L. L. Fox, J. B. Perkins,

On motion of brother Kirven, the usual manner of electing Moderator and Clerk by ballot was dispensed with, and Elder L. L. Fox, was re-elected Moderator, and F. H. McGill,Clerk, by acclamation.

Visiting Brethren were then invited to seats in the body,and brother T. M. Bailey, recognized in his official capacity for State Mission Board.

The body was pleased to recognize brother W. B. Crumpton as corresponding messenger from Cahaba and Pine Barren Associations.

The following committees were appointed by the Moderator.

On Finance—John W. Henson, J. R. Cowen, D. B. Jackson.

On Documents and Requests—W. J. Thornton,D. B. Jackson, Jackson Daffin.

On Nominations—J. H. Fendley, Wm. H. DeWitt, Wiley Davis.

On motion brother Adams, 9 o'clock A. M., was appointed for the re-assembling of the body, and thirty minutes spent in devotional exercises.

On motion of brother Kirven, the hour of 10 o'clock Saturday was set apart for the discussion of mission work, and brother Bailey and others requested to address the body, also, the hour of 2 o'clobk P. M., Saturday was designated to discuss the Grand Centennial move at which time, brother Fox and others were requested to address the body.

Committee on preaching made the following partial report:

Elder P. E. Kirven, to preach at 7 o'clock P. M, and Elder W. B. Crumpton, at 11 o'clock A. M., Saturday, which was amended by substituting brother Crumpton, for brother Kirven, at night, and dispensing with the 11 o'clock service on Saturday.

COM. { W. L. WALSTON, J. B. PERKINS, J. W. HENSON.

On motion of brother Adams, the reading of the rules of decorum was omitted.

A Committee consisting of brethren H. Adams, M. F. Whatley and W. L. Walston, was raised to report on Ala. Baptist.

Report of committees being called for, chairman of committee to report on Foreign and Domestic Missions, begged to be excused, and a new Committee, consisting of Elder P. E. Kirven and others, was appointed to make a report during the progress of this meeting.

The Chairman of Committee on State of Religion, asked further time which was extened during this session.

The report of Committee on Ministerial Education, was read and received.

On motion of brother Kirven, it was laid on the table to be taken up at 2 o'clock on Saturday in connection with Centennial work.

The committee on Alabama Baptist, made report, which called forth stirring speeches from several brethren, and was unanimously adopted. (Appendix A.)

The Committee raised to report, in lieu of standing Committee on Foreign and Domestic Missions, made their report

which was laid on the table to be taken up at 10 o'clock on Saturday, as a basis for discussing the Mission work.

The Association was then adjouned to meet at 9 o'clock A. M. Prayer by Elder T. M. Bailey.

SATURDAY 9 O'CLOCK A. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment. After spending half hour in devotional exercises, the body was again called to order.

Committee on State of Religion made the following report which was adopted:

We find that our Association has been visited by an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in many places, and are encouraged to hope that a brighter day is dawning upon us. We are glad to say that a spirit of improvement is visible in all directions. For further particulars (see table of statistics.)

M. F. WHATLEY, Ch'm.

The Committee on Finance, made the following report, which was adopted:

For Minutes	$70 25
For Ministerial Education	37 00
For Missions	70 00

COM. { J. W. HENSON, J. R. COWAN, D. B. JACKSON.

The funds for missions did not pass through the hands of the Finance Committee as it should have done, but was paid over to brother Bailey, Agent for State Mission Board: consequently we are in doubt as to the exact amount sent up by the churches and collected for the said purpose, but feel sure it will not fall below the above figures. CLERK.

The funds sent up by the churches for Ministerial Education was by the order of the Association paid to F. H. McGill, to aid him in paying expenses incurred at Howard College.

The report on Foreign and Domestic Missions was then taken from the table, read and adopted, after an earnest effort on the part of brethren Crumpton, Bailey and Kirven to awaken a spirit of missions among our people, which called forth a liberal contribution. (Appendix B.)

On motion of brother Kirven, the money collected for missions was placed in the hands of brother T. M. Bailey, Agent for State Mission Board.

The Clerk was allowed twenty-five dollars for his services, and ordered to appropriate the remainder of the minute fund to the printing of minutes.

The Nominating Committee made the following report which was adopted:

The next annual meeting of this body to be held with New Hope Church, Choctaw Corner, Clark county, Alabama, on Friday before second Lord's day in October, 1876.

Elder P. E. Kirven, to preach the Introductory Sermon and M. F. Whatley, alternate. J. H. FENDLEY, Ch'm

On motion the entire mission work devolves on our Committee.

Correspondence was granted with the following Associations:

Providence—Elders P. E. Kirven, H. Adams C. F. Stirgis.

Pine Barren—Green Jones.

Big Bee—J. G. McCaskey, J. W. Jones, E. S. Thornton.

Cahaba—H. Adams.

Liberty—M. F. Whatley, J. R. Cowan, W. J. Thornton.

The following brethren were appointed as delegates to the State Convention.

Elders P. E. Kirven, J. Duffin, J. G. McCaskey, M. F. Whatley, H. Adams, L. T. Daniel, W. H. DeWitt, and F. H. McGill; also brethren J. W. Henson, W. J. Thornton, W. L. Walston, J. W. Jones, Charles Collins, J. R. Nettles, James S. Dickinson, H. A. Woolf, and Lee Lipscomb.

The body was then adjourned for an hour. Prayer by Eld. M. F. Whatley.

SATURDAY 2 O'CLOCK P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder P. E. Kirven.

The report on Ministerial Education was again read and the following preamble and resolution offered in its stead which was adopted. (Appendix C.)

The order of business was then suspended to allow Committee on preaching to report:

Report brother T. M. Bailey, to preach at 11 o'clock on Sabbath, and brother L. L. Fox at 2 o'clock P. M, also brethren Bailey and Crumpton, were requested to address the mass-meeting to-night. W. L. WALSTON, Ch'm.

The hour having arrived for the discussion of the Grand

Centennial move, brother Fox in his usual clear and emphatic tone interested and delighted the audience for an hour with Baptist peculiarites, and was followed by brother Bailey and others with telling speeches upon the subject. The audience then signified their hearty co-operaton by a rising vote.

A collection of three dollars and forty cents was made and paid to the Clerk to furnish minutes to churches not represented.

STANIDNG COMMITTEES.

On State of Religion—C. J. Miles, C. K. Finney, T. H. Dunning.

On Sabbath-schools—F. H. McGill, Jno. Deal, James Pritchet.

On Missions—H. Adams, L. T. Daniel, David Bird.

On Ministerial Education—P. E. Kirven, J. W. Henson, J. R. Cowan.

On account of inclemant weather, the report of Committee on preaching was reconsidered and instead of the mass-meeting at night, 9 o'clock Sabbath morning was appointed for the discussion of Sabbath-school work.

On motion the body then adjourned to re-assemble at the call of the Moderator.

SABBATH MORNING.

Reading of Scriptures by brother T. M. Bailey, and prayer by brother W. B. Crumpton.

As the mass-meeting had been prevented by excessive rain, brother Bailey purposely embraced the entire morning service in presenting the claims of the Sabbath-school, to a large and attentive audience. He was followed by pointed remarks from brother Crumpton, after which, a rising vote pledged each individual to labor for the success of the Sabbath-school.

SABBATH EVENGING, 2 O'CLOCK.

The time appointed for brother Fox, was occupied by Elder T. M. Bailey, who made touching appeals for the spread of the gospel from 142 Psalm, the last clause of the 4th verse: "No man cared for my soul."

The body was then called to order and the business before the Association completed.

The Executive Committee made their report which was adopted. (Appendix D.)

The Committee to report on tribute of respect to Elder R. M. Thomas, being unprepared were authorized to fill the outline, which was read as basis for report,and placed in the hands of the Clerk for publication in the minutes. (Appendix E.)

Elder P. E. Kirven, was appointod to report the proceedings of this body, to the Alabama Baptist.

On motion the Executive Committee was continued by substituting Elder M. F. Whatley, instead of Elder L. L. Fox.

The following sub-Committees were appointed on Centennial work.

First District—H. Adams, M. F. Whatley, J. H. Fendley.

Second District—P. E. Kirven, L. T. Daniel.

Third District—J. W. Jones, H. A. Woolf, F. H. McGill.

On motion the thanks of this body was tendered the church and surrounding vicinity, for their cordial hospitality during its present sitting.

Our Moderator, after expressions of gratitude for the order and harmony which prevailed throughout the entire session, spoke of his feeble and declining health; and the probability of his not being permitted to assemble with us again in an Associational capacity, whereupon brother Adams offered the following resolution, which was adopted.

Resolved, That we as an Association make the life and health of our Moderator a subject of devout prayer to Almighty God.

Resolution by brother Kirven, that we offer thanks to Almigty God for sending our brother Bailey in our midst to stir us up to love and good works; and that we cordially invite brother Bailey to visit our entire Association,promising to give him our hearty co-operation, which was unanimously adopted.

The body then adjourned to meet with New Hope Church, Choctaw Corner, Clarke county, Alabama, on Friday before the second Lord's day in Oct., 1876,

L. L. FOX, Moderator.

F. H. McGill, Clerk.

APPENDICES.

(APPENDIX A.)

REPORT ON ALABAMA BAPTIST.

Your Committee feel that we have reason to be gtateful to the Alabama Baptist Convention for furnishing us with a State organ through which we can freely communicate with the great Baptist brotherhood of our State. We recognize in the Alabama Baptist, a sound Baptist paper, calculated to instruct our people in sound biblical views, promote their spirituality and stir up to activity in the things of Christ. We recommend the passage of the following resolution:

That we hereby pledge ourselves as an Association, to do all in our power to extend the circulation of our State paper. H. ADAMS, Ch'm.

(APPENDIX B.)

REPORT ON FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Your Committee being raised, instanta, to report in lieu of standing committee excused, can do but little more than offer a basis to open the discussion at 10 o'clock to-morrow. From our papers we learn that our bounds are in straightened circumstances for want of funds; and are failing to meet their obligations to missionaries in their employ, consequently must recall them without relief from the churches. My brethren should this be done? We have now a State Mission Board instituted at our last State Convention, which we hope will secure the sympathy and aid of our churches, and once more awaken the spirit of missions in our denomination throughout the State. If our churches will but obey the New Testament plan of weekly contributions there will be a mission fund always on hand, "ready as a matter of bounty and not as of covetousness."

P. E. KIRVEN, Ch'm.

(APPENDIX C.)

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, Our brethren throughout our entire country are proposing and making arrangments to observe the year 1876, in a Grand Centennial effort to erect a monument as an expression of our gratitude to God for his amazing goodness and grace vouched-safe to our fathers in sustaining them amidst per-

secution, suffering and death, and whereas no monumentth, at we as a people can raise, is so lasting and honoring to our Redeemer as a higher literary and christian culture of the immortal mind, and

WHEREAS, In order to this higher culture, it is impportant that we have a College placed upon a firm and substantial basis, and under the controll of brethren of our own denomination deeply imbued with the spirit of piety and holding strict Baptistic doctrines.

Resolved, That we the messengers of the churches composing the Bethel Association, will do all we can as individuals to secure an endowment for Howard College and exhort our brethren of the churches to do the same.

L. L FOX.

[APPENDIX D.]

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your Executive Committee to whom was referred our Sabbath-school, and other interests during your recess report the following:

We organized immediately after your adjournment by electing P. E Kirven, Chairman, and John W. Henson, Clerk.

The funds for Ministerial Education placed in our hands were paid to F. H. McGill, the only young minister at Howard College from this Association. In accordance with a resolution of your body the Association was divided into Sabbath-school districts of from three to five churches each, and a superintendent appointed in every district, who were instructed to organize Sabbath-schools wherever practicable in their respective districts, and report from time to time the progress of their work. Subsequent meetings of the Committee were appointed for each fifth Sabbath. The two first were attended with extreme bad weather and but a partial attendence was obtained. On Saturday before the fifth Sabbath in August a ministers meeting was held at Tallahatta Springs, and Sabbath following a Sabbath-school mass meeting, when stirring addresses were delivered by Elder L. T. Daniel, M. F. Whatley, J. H Fendley, F. H. McGill, and P. E. Kirven, (with C. J. Miles, in the chair) to a large audience from which we confidently hope much good will result to the cause. Sabbath-schools have been organized in almost every church within our bounds, and many other places attended with more or less interest, and we think there is more general interest felt in the Sabbath-school work. P. E. KIRVEN, Ch'm.

[APPENDIX E.]

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT TO ELDER R. M. THOMAS.

This dear brother was born in Edgefield District, South Carolina, in 1807. His father, Elijah Thomas, when his son was eight years old, removed to Dallas county, Ala. Brother Thomas professed religion when he was eighteen years old, and joined the Presbyterian Society. He removed to Calaway county, Ky,

1838. Being convinced of the errors held by the Presbyterians, he joined and was baptized by A. P. Hodges, into the fellowship of the Blood River Church, the same year was ordained a deacon and served his church as such for three years. He then removed his membership to Locus Grove, where, in 1842, he was ordained to the ministry by his brotherer-in-law, A P. Hodges and Jessee Cox. He remained for some years in this State preaching the Word. When he returned to Alabama, your Committee is not informed. In 1851 he was known to us in Dallas county, a minister of righteousness. In 1854, he came to Wilcox county, where for a year or two, he served churches and did good. He next settled in Clake county, where for many years, he was active, serving the churches, and where he laid his weapons down a member of Grove Hill Baptist Church, June 25th, 1874, in the ripeness of years and in the full maturity of mental vigor, of whom his church say in their published obituary:

"A pattern of meekness, humility and fervent devotion in the cause of Christ. Whom as a minister of the gospel we esteemed as faithful, able and efficient, who while he had little confidence in himself, had abiding faith in the sufficiency of grace, while he was ever oppressed with a sense of his own weakness, he had no distrust of the power of the gospsl. As a preacher, he was faithful and candid, always firm, gentle in his manners, and humble in his deportment." Merited a shining tribute.

In 1832 our brother married Sarah P. Hodges, of Tennnessee, who survives her husband near Grove Hill, Ala, living with her daughter, Mrs. E. D. Thomas her only child.

"Waiting by the river"

till God shall call her spirit home.

Resolved, That we tender to the bereaved family our heart-felt sympathies.

Resolved, That this tribute be published with our minutes. COMMITTEE.

CHURCHES.	Meetings....	PASTORS.	Baptized....	Rec. by let.	Restored.	POST OFFICE.	Dismissed.	Excluded...	Deceased..	Total.....	Minutes....	Missions....	Ministerial Education.	Pastor's Annual Salaries.....
FIRST DISTRICT.														
Ulconush	1	Wm. Campbell	...	5	7	Coffeville	18	2	1	142	$3 35	.....	.....	.....
West Bend	1	P. E. Kirven	...	...	...	Coffeville	1	1	1	37	3 00	.....	$10 00	$200 00
New Prospect	2	Wm. Campbell	35	8	7	Coffeville	2	6	...	124	2 05	.....	5 00	.....
Stave Creek	1	A. J. Stringer	4	...	1	Jackson	13	...	2	66	2 00	.....	.....	.....
Grove Hill	1	H. Adams	1	2	...	Grove Hill	1	4	...	138	2 50	.....	10 00	150 00
Mt. Gillead	4	J. G. McCaskey	6	6	1	Jackson	...	2	1	52	2 00	.....	.....	.....
Rocky Mount	1	W. H. DeWitt	...	4	...	L. P. Tree	...	...	...	27	2 00	.....	.....	.....
Amity	3	J. G. McCaskey	3	1	2	Sugsville	...	...	...	40	2 00	.....	.....	.....
Horeb	3	H Adams	4	3	...	Grove Hill	2	2	...	68	1 75	.....	.....	.....
Salem	2	J. H. Fendley	...	...	...	Grove Hill	13	5	2	105	4 00	.....	.....	75 00
Penul	2	A. J. Stringer	3	...	...	Jackson	...	...	...	14	1 40	.....	.....	.....
Bassetts Creek	1	J. H. Fendley	6	3	...	Grove Hill	5	2	2	70	2 25	.....	.....	.....
Satilfa	2	J. H. Fendley	...	...	...	C. Cornor	...	...	...	.....	1 00	.....	.....	.....
Bladen Springs	...		...	...	...	Bladen Springs	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
River Hill	...		...	...	...	Jackson	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hopwell	...		...	...	...	Coffeville	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Magnolia	...		...	...	...	Jackson	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pleasant Grove	...		...	...	...	Coffeville	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
SECOND DISTRICT.														
Forrest Springs	2	P. E. Kirven	8	2	...	Morvin	1	3	1	165	5 00	.....	.....	200 00
Elam	2	M. F. Whatley	16	8	6	C. Corner	11	3	1	99	3 25	.....	.....	.....
New Hope	3	L. T. Daniel	32	28	2	C Corner	7	1	1	202	6 30	.....	.....	150 00
Shiloh	3	C. J. Miles	7	5	1	Shiloh	3	2	...	82	2 50	.....	.....	.....
Friendship	2	Jas. Averitt	8	2	1	Hampden	2	5	2	81	1 80	.....	.....	.....
Enon	4	L. T. Daniel	1	2	...	Pine Hill	3	...	...	64	3 00	.....	.....	100 00
Pisgah	3	J. H. Fendley	2	...	...	Bethel	1	...	...	50	2 00	.....	.....	.....
Canaan	1	L. T. Daniel	...	1	...	Clifton	...	1	1	42	2 00	.....	.....	.....
Goose Creek	3	Jas. Averitt	2	1	...	Hampden	2	...	...	15	1 10	.....	.....	.....
Nanafalia	3	P. E. Kirven	1	4	1	Nanafalia	...	2	...	.....	3 00	.....	.....	.....
Cane Creek	4	H. Adams	...	1	...	Bethel	5	1	1	20	1 00	.....	.....	.....
L. P. Tree	2	H. Adams	1	3	...	L. P. Tree	...	...	...	25	2 00	.....	.....	75 00
THIRD DISTRICT.														
Aimwell	2	L. T. Daniel	12	2	6	Nanafalia	2	4	2	120	1 50	.....	.....	.....
Hills	3	L. L. Fox	...	...	...	Linden	2	...	1	38	1 50	7 00	2 00	.....
Antioch	2	J. G. McCaskey	5	...	...	Linden	1	...	1	24	1 00	.....	.....	.....
Providence	1	J. G. McCaskey	5	1	...	Spring Hill	2	...	1	26	1 00	.....	.....	.....
Spring Hill	2	L. L. Fox	...	2	1	Spring Hill	4	...	...	19	1 00	3 00	.....	.....
Bethlehem	2	C. J. Miles	...	3	...	Shiloh	3	...	...	68	75	.....	.....	.....
Bethel	1	L. L. Fox	2	...	...	McKinley	...	...	...	39	1 50	37 50	.....	.....

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